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SPORTSWEAR SEPARATES: A SOFT-FALL IN '77

All is now softness. And UNconstructed. Even tailored garments doff their hard edges, many are softened with frills or gathers. Designers are into Fall separates that work well together and with other things already in the wearer's closet.

IN A NUTSHELL:

... Gentle Pullover Drawstring BLOUSONS inch up on Softened BLAZERS

... Pleat-Front TROUSERS and Basic PANTS; SKIRTS, which are pleated, wrapped, bias, dirndl'd; Pegged Pants trending

... Soft-Neck BLOUSES ountnumber SHIRTS

... Newest Necklines: TURNED DOWN COWLS

SOFT SPORTSWEAR SEPARATES

GENTLE DRAWSTRING BLOUSONS: PULLOVER -- plaid-faced sage green flannel, standup collar, narrow stitched cuffs; yellow turn-down cowl sweater/29-inch over-boot-length sunburst pleated plaid skirt; fur-blend, Bayadere striped navy-gray-ivory/poly crepe de chine smock-fit blouse, convertible tie neck/navy-gray windowpane check bias skirt, tab pocket (Kasper/J.L. Sport) -- natural Nomelle/cashmere knit, drawstring neck/pullon skirt/black crepe de chine blouse; lightweight brushed gray mohair, pewter metal BUTTON FRONT, epaulets, sleeve tabs, goes with blacks, gray, navy (Betty Hanson).

SWEATER NOVELTIES: Cashmere surplice-wrap, vicuna, other shades/linen or Charmeuse 1-button blouse; closure-less cardigan (Calvin Klein) -- handsome loose, lacy stocking knit acrylic pullover REVERSES from gray to white; smashing cranberry

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PARIS: ROOMY, ROMANTIC, RETROSPECTIVE

The Autumn-Winter Pret-a-Porter fashions, as shown last month in Paris, may be termed controversial. The collections encompassed a vast spectrum of ideas -- good, borrowed, and exhumed. Lengths, ranging from mini to mid-calf to ankle, need not be a major topic of conversation. FI believes length should be determined by the mood of the clothes themselves.

TRENDS:

... AMPLE SILHOUETTES, amply layered -- big dresses sometimes top bigger skirts, double skirts, petticoats

... OVERSIZED SWEATERS, BLOUSONS, JACKETS, boxy vests. CAPES and COATS in airy, lightweight fabrics, many textures, colors

... GATHERED & TUCKED SHOULDERS & YOKES

... SOFTENED CLASSICS: A mixture of plaids, checks, tweeds, corduroy and canvas in larger but softly tailored jackets, vests, blouses, full skirts, trousers

... ROMANTIC, soft, pretty clothes for day into evening -- lace, ruffles, bows, appliques, embroideries, beading, real or fake FUR and marabou

... FUNCTIONAL fabrics in practical active sportswear ... GIMMICKY ZIPPERS ... Hidden hoods -- DOUBLE SLEEVES -- COAT THREESOMES

THE ONE- and TWO-PIECE DRESS IS BACK, for day and evening: Ingenue smocks, tunics, tents, easy tubes -- many in soft jersey -- full 3/4 sleeves with double ruffle -- waists are bloused, wrapped, cinched and low belted.

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PARIS PRET-A-PORTER (continued from page 1)

SKIRTS: Alone, or paired with tent or smock tops, big sweaters, vests ... single, double, triple plus petticoat ... tiered, flounced, dirndl, sunburst pleated, bias-circle, button front.

TROUSERS: Paris still loves pants, in every variety -- baggy, with softly pleated waistline, or peg-top (narrow at bottom) -- drawstring waist, clown and Zouave ... tapered, straight, knitted slim, zipped up skintights ... jodhpurs, knickers, shorts, dirndl-culottes.

SWEATERS: Many ended with wide ribs reaching almost to mid-thigh -- most were worn with tights or shorts and leg warmers ... Huge ... Hip-belted ... Blouson, loose or drawstringed ... Batwing sleeves and exaggerated cowl collars ... Colorful -- ribbed, tweedy with color patches -- scenics, Argyles, zigzagged, vertically striped ... Lacy -- airy ... Bead-trimmed and sequinned late-day sweaters.

THE KEY COLLECTIONS:

KARL LAGERFIELD/CHLOE -- a beautiful feminine collection, the nostalgia, this time, a cross between Cavaliers and the Three Musketeers, laced with a touch of Edwardian ... Outstanding: Blouses with ruffles, bows, lace, full or capelet sleeves -- worn with skirts hitched up at one side, or black satin breeches ... Swirling coats, and capes with sleeves attached inside! ... See-through tops, tunics, for late-day ... Important accessory: A lace band, alternately tied into a bow, wrapped about the neck, or tied to ponytailed hair.

YVES SAINT LAURENT -- charming ingenue dresses, one- or two-piece Empires or tenty with Pierrot bow collars or Victorian ruffled yokes and full sleeves ... a more wearable version now, of the Pierrot collar blouse he first showed in the January Couture collection ... he is a master at mixing patterns, say plaids with tiny florals, but the most beautiful were his large paisleys, allover or Bayadere as well as vertically striped ... Fringe, replacing the rickrack and tassels, appeared on capes, yokes, hems, belts, bags and boots.

KENZO -- A mixed bag: The mini "Balloon" dress and the "Hobble" shown both as a mid-calf skirt and a strapless dress. Also, baggy clown trousers -- over-sized man-tailored tweed hacking jackets -- drawstring-waist culottes -- loosely belted Tartan skirts with matching vests -- Eton collared blouses -- the ubiquitous necktie -- Cockney caps -- and colorful sweaters.

ACCESSORIES:

THE NECKTIE is a key accessory ... Mufflers and large shawls worn every which way.

SHOES: B-O-O-T-S worn with nearly everything -- from thigh-high black satin boots to Cavaliers to low-calf and ankle booties, everything tucked into them, even skirt hems! ... Spiked heel sandals -- LOW-WEDGE BOW-TRIMMED BLACK PATENTS -- flat Mary Janes.

HATS: Berets, caps, knitted pullons ... Bowlers, coolies, Fezzes and Davy Crockets ... The Three Musketeers, replete with feathers and large silk flowers.

FUR: Real or fake, as trims -- tails dangling from belts, bags -- Sherpa used as linings of coats, jackets.

FABRICS: CORDUROY, from pin to wide wale -- flannel, Viyella, wool challis, etamine -- lightweight tweeds, Tartans and blanket plaids -- hopsack -- velours, brushed wool and mohair (knot or woven) ... HABERDASHERY: A mix of plaids, checks, corduroy, canvas and tweeds in ampler but softly tailored menswear separates ... EVENING: Satin, velvet, lace, taffeta, moire, brocade, crepe de chine ... Tulle.

PATTERNS: Scattered delicate florals, Liberty and Liberty-types -- giant plaids -- checks in all sizes, clown dots, paisleys.

COLORS: Ivory, ecru, chamois, gray, tan -- adobe, tobacco, henna, chocolate brown -- khaki, beige, olive, forest green -- violet, bois de rose, red, magenta -- yellow, teal, soft pastels -- purple tones -- black, white.

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IMPORTANT DATES

N.Y. - Display Market Week, June 4-9
CHICAGO - Fall Ready-To-Wear, June 4-9
L.A. - Fall Ready-To-Wear, June 10-13
ROME - Fall Couture Showings, July 18-21
PARIS - Fall Couture Showings, July 25-28

SPORTSWEAR SEPARATES (continued from pg. 1)

brushed mohair triangular SHAWL, hand-crocheted gray shell-stitch edging, top can fold into elegant capelet collar (Betty Hanson).

WINTER-SURVIVAL QUILTS: Bias-quilted down-filled cotton jackets/pants, some cropped below knee, over woolen socks/wool knit mittens (Perry Ellis/Portfolio) -- quilted petticoats, some eyelet edged; quilted satin vests (Gil Aimbez/Genre) -- quilted sweatshirts in mohair, challis or white corduroy (Charles Suppon/Intre Sport).

TAILORED LOOK SEPARATES

TROUSERED: With SHORTER BLAZERS, softly tailored -- buttonless, plaid/wide wale corduroy narrow pants (Blassport) -- rust flannel/plaid blazer or shirtjac, basic pant (Harve Benard) -- 2-button herring-bone flannel or houndstooth/pleated fly-front trouser/mini-pin-striped silk blouse, collarband under turndown cowl (Britta/Cinnamon Wear) ... With SHIRTJACS: Herringbone shirtjac, beautifully gathered from shaped back yoke/trouser or inverted front-pleat skirt, Western pockets/gray mohair-alpaca turndown cowl pullover (Betty Hanson) -- vicuna colored cashmere-wool unlined shirtjac/pleat-front trouser/double-ply vicuna-ivory fur-blend turndown cowl pullover (Kasper/J.L. Sport) ... Others: SHEARLING JACKET/Irish fisherman knit pullover/easy corduroy pants or skirt (Cesarani).

PEGGED PANTS: Cuffed, in banker's gray flannel/beige blazer/necktie blouse in foulard (Ralph Lauren) -- pegged pants, skirts/bloused-back foulard vests (Alice Blaine/Giraffe) -- skinny slouch pants, pegged only in back, the intentionally too-long front bunching up on the shoe (Perry Ellis/Portfolio) -- ankle shirred-and-tabbed, ribknit-waist pullons/knit-bottom blazer (Suppon) ... JODHPURS -- gray flannel/oxford shirt/plaid vest and shawl (Blassport) -- striped wool pullons (Alice Blaine).

SKIRTED: Cropped double breasted blazer/wrapped overskirt in RAINPROFFED SILK (Cesarani) -- cashmere sweater-blouse/brief, fitted brown herringbone jacket/printed brown challis easy-skirt (Calvin Klein) -- tweed blazer/ruffled jabot shirt/paisley challis skirt (Ralph Lauren) -- unconstructed plaid blazer/double shirts/floral skirt and vest (Alice Blaine) -- roll-up sleeve blazer/hip-drawstringed, open-neck, rolled sleeve mohair sweater/rolled sleeve, drop-shoulder blouse/drawstring-waist Slouch skirt/ruffled petticoat (Portfolio) -- short-cropped fly-front pea jacket, standing collar, in heather rose/matching or Ultrasuede-trimmed print challis skirt with stitched-down half-moon pleats/softened poly crepe de chine basic blouse, 4-way convertible collar (J.L. Sport) -- lush rust cotton-velvet to coordinate with rust flannel and plaid group: Soft blazer/inverted front-pleat 8-gore skirt or front-wrap, side buckle, pleat on opposite side/creme cafe antique satin shirt or stock-tie blouse (Harve Benard) -- mini-pinwale corduroy blazer/tiny-hip-stitched inverted pleat skirt, zipper concealed in side pocket/tricolor print shirt, breast pocket (Cinnamon Wear).

IMPORTANT FABRICS, COLORS: FLANNEL, CHALLIS, CORDUROY -- Shetland, gabardine -- CASHMERE, brushed mohair -- wool crepe -- foulard, poly crepe de chine ... THE NEW DARKS: Banker's gray, vicuna, rust, cranberry, dark rose, heather and sage greens -- natural.

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FI BOUTIQUE BEAT: N.Y. - EAST 60'S

BUFFALO WEAVERS CLOTHIERS, 203 E. 60th St. (751-0117). New boutique for the trendy set -- designs by Kansai Yamamoto. Printed big tops in cotton with ribknit trim. Corduroy pants by Daily Blue -- Unusual sportswear, crocheted dresses, T-shirts.

CALIFORNIA CLOTHING CO., 767 Lexington (60th) (751-0930). Young fashions, featuring satin or gold baseball jackets, velour laced blousons with hoods in bright colors -- White canvas skirt to wear with big, oversized shirts -- Multi-buttoned sailor pants in basic brights.

SEVEN BEAUTIES, 29 East 60th St. (838-3194). Printed cotton dresses, many with unusual sleeve treatments -- Silk jersey and interesting textured knitted T-shirts, sleeveless with variegated raised & flat stripes, solid collars, ribbed collars.

POUR MOI, 1181 2nd Ave. (62nd St.)(751-5409). Antique clothes mostly from England -- & made-to-order from antique silks.

FALL FOOTWEAR: "SURVIVAL" BOOTS; & GOLD

Fresh from a vicious winter, the shoe market has singlemindedly seen to it that you won't shiver-in-your-boots next time. Survival is the keynote here; and gold, the frequent ways-and-means. Shoes, per se, concentrate on nude-look evening slippers.

THE NEW APPROACHES:

... BOOTS by day and by night

... FUR, from shearling to mink, sable

... GLEAMING METALLICS, gold number one

... TOES: Gently Pointed - slightly upturned and beveled, resembling a flatiron -- ROUND toes are volume, especially in young market -- Baby Dolls trending

... HEELS: From balletic flats for the young, to skyscraper spikes for sophisticates

THE NEW LOOKS IN BOOTS: WESTERN, with a delicate air, predominates -- leather fringe, delicate stitching tracery -- SHAPES: Western cowboy, over-the-knee chaps, gauchos -- paratroopers -- cavaliers, too ... "Riding" boots, removable thin stirrup instep strap (Jacques Cohen).

BOOT HEIGHT: From ankle to mid-thigh ... CUFFS at all levels, many convertible ... DIPPY OVER BOOTS -- side dips to facilitate pants-stuffing -- front or back under-knee dips to facilitate walking in over-the-knee styles -- V-dipped front (Anne Klein/Schwartz & Benjamin).

BOOT MAKERS: FUR, from coat-matching shearling cuffs, trim, linings, on shoes, Eskimo and apres-ski boots -- to mink and sable on prestige designer shoes and booties -- dyed suede ankle boot, dyed to match sable cuff (Reed Jay Evins/RJE Designs).

GOLD METALLIC -- for trims -- entire flare-top Western boot (Craddock-Terry) -- entire boot, sable lined & cuffed (Reed Jay Evins).

TWO-PIECE LOOKS, fabric top, set on leather "shoe" of contrasting color -- primary-multi-color Bayadere tapestry knee-high/leather bottom, leather-fringe "ponytails" trim (Cohen) -- wool knit leg-warmer set on suede wedge (Florence Otway/Golo).

WET-WEAR BOOTS: Vulcanized over-shoe boots, side zipped, two heel heights, four colors (Olof Daughters) -- colorful rainwear "slickers" (Golo).

DRESSY DAYTIME: Open-shank-and-back gold-chain strapped suedes (Charles Jourdan/Infab) -- V-plunge deep-throat vamp, leather for day, metallic for evening (Halston/Garolini) ... GOLD DIGGERS OF '77 -- gold penny loafers, metallic espadrilles (Reed Jay Evins) -- "slide" (high-rise vamp slide-on mule) on semi-wedge-heel (Roberto Cambronero/Bernardo) ... Soft-toe ballet flats and Maryjanes are newsy ... Cobra, the trending reptile.

SPORTY: Tweed/leather mocs, loafers (Ralph Lauren) ... SNEAKERS: Signature sneakers, two-tone suede espadrilles; colored brushed pigskin, logo on side (Calvin Klein/Andrew Geller) -- silver toes and side-stripes on square-heeled wedge (Jourdan) ... White rubber TRACTOR SOLES, on 3-inch heel "slide" oxford, logo on side (Nina) -- tractor heels, on box toe, open-shank slings and T-straps (Caressa).

GOLD AND GLITTER BY NIGHT: Pave rhinestones under heel and on quarter of satin slippers (Reed Jay Evins) -- nude gold mesh high heeled mules (John Kloss/Schwartz & Benjamin) -- gold, silver, copper nude strip sandals, mules, on high and spike heels (Geoffrey Beene/Geller) -- colored metallic strip sandals (C. Klein) -- gold/zebra striped slings, sandals (Otway) -- satin flats (RJE/Selva).

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